those who passed the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination from the Girls' Schools in District V in the years 1101, 1102 and 1103, the names, the previous acting service and the year of passing the examination, of the women teachers appointed acting or permanent?

(*b*) Will they be pleased to state whether any of those persons who had passed their examinations and had been given acting appointments prior to those who were appointed as aforesaid are without permanent or acting appointments at present (16-3-1104); and

(*c*) if so, will they be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, of such persons?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) The Government do not propose to call for the information as in their opinion the time and labour involved in collecting it will be out of all proportion to the public utility derived from it.

Appointments in the women's branch of the Education Department.

367. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any provision made in the women's branch of the Education Department that appointments as women teachers would be made only in accordance with the order of the year of passing the examination; and

(*b*) if so, whether any person has been appointed in violation of that provision?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) above, this does not arise.

Disparity between the pay of the Headmasters of V. M. Schools and the teachers of Class VII.

368. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Are the Government aware that the difference in pay between the Headmasters of V. M. Schools and the teachers of Class VII is very great, while their qualifications are the same?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government are aware that there is a difference in pay between the Headmasters of Vernacular Middle Schools and the teachers of Class VII, but the difference is not greater than the difference in their duties-warrants.

Illicit tapping of trees before they are marked and numbered.

369. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Are the Government are aware:

(*a*) that, on their application, the contractors are allowed to prepare the spathes of trees to be tapped before they have been marked and numbered; and

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